

**Bob Rutemoeller  
PO Box 687  
Gualala, CA 95445**

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Penny Woods  
BLM Project Manager  
PO Box 12000  
Reno, NV 89520  
775-861-6689 (FAX)

Dear Ms. Woods:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft EIS ("DEIS") for the Groundwater Development Project. The BLM is to be commended for identifying the severe and lasting impacts the proposed project will inflict upon the land and all its inhabitants. The effects from the project would be irretrievable, irreversible and unacceptable, and would result in the end of life styles, recreation and ecosystems in eastern Nevada as we know it. The BLM must choose the No Action Alternative, and deny the Right of Way for this project. To do otherwise would violate its public trust responsibilities.

Though the DEIS analyzes and predicts dire environmental and socio-economic impacts from the Proposed Action and five alternatives, the DEIS contains many flaws and inadequacies that must be addressed before any fully informed Record of Decision can be reached. Among the faults are a failure to disclose the economic cost of the project, and the lack of specificity of well locations to gauge the environmental impacts. Likewise, the DEIS fails to substantiate the Southern Nevada Water Authority's need for the project by dismissing out-of-hand the other viable options for the Authority to meet its water supply needs such as through increased conservation and re-use of gray water and waste water.

Sincerely,



Robert A Rutemoeller